

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A computer implemented method for regulating a level of self-disclosure in an instant messaging communications session, the method comprising:  
enabling user selection, on a first instant messaging participant system, of an instant messaging communications mode from among at least a first available self-disclosure mode and a second available self-disclosure mode, the first available self-disclosure mode disclosing a different amount of information about a first instant messaging participant than the second available self-disclosure mode;

enabling creation, on the first instant messaging participant system, of a multimedia message clip, the multimedia message clip including both audio and video,

enabling editing of the multimedia message clip according to the selected communications mode, and

enabling presentation, to a second instant messaging participant system, of the edited message clip.

2-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently amended) A computer implemented method for regulating self-disclosure in an instant messaging communications ~~sessions~~, session, the method comprising:

establishing, between an instant message sender and an instant message recipient, an instant messaging communications session that enables an exchange of textual, audio, and audio-video messages between the instant message sender and the instant message recipient;

providing the instant message sender with different communications modes for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session, the different communications modes offering varying levels of self-disclosure and including:

- a textual message communications mode that enables the instant message sender to send textual messages to the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session,

- an audio message communications mode that enables the instant message sender to send audio messages to the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session, and

- an audio-video message communications mode that enables the instant message sender to send audio-video messages to the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session;

- receiving an indication of a selection, by the instant message sender from among the different communications modes, of a particular communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session;

- facilitating generation, by the instant message sender, of a message according to the selected communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session; and

- sending the message generated according to the selected communications mode for delivery to the instant message recipient.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27 further comprising:

- enabling the instant message sender to change the communications mode selected for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session;

- receiving an indication of a selection, by the instant message sender from among the different communications modes, of a new communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session;

facilitating generation, by the instant message sender, of a message according to the newly selected communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session; and

sending the message generated according to the newly selected communications mode for delivery to the instant message recipient.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27 wherein:

receiving an indication of a selection of a particular communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session comprises receiving an indication of selection of the textual message communications mode;

facilitating generation, by the instant message sender, of a message according to the selected communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session comprises facilitating generation of a textual message by the instant message sender; and

sending the message generated according to the selected communications mode for delivery to the instant message recipient comprises sending the textual message for delivery to the instant message recipient.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27 wherein:

receiving an indication of a selection of a particular communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session comprises receiving an indication of selection of the audio message communications mode;

facilitating generation, by the instant message sender, of a message according to the selected communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session comprises facilitating generation of an audio message by the instant message sender; and

sending the message generated according to the selected communications mode for delivery to the instant message recipient comprises sending the audio message for delivery to the instant message recipient.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein facilitating generation of an audio message by the instant message sender comprises recording an audio message; and

sending the audio message for delivery to the instant message recipient comprises sending the recorded audio message for delivery to the instant message recipient.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein facilitating generation of an audio message by the instant message sender comprises accessing a pre-recorded audio message; and

sending the audio message for delivery to the instant message recipient comprises sending the pre-recorded audio message for delivery to the instant message recipient.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27 wherein: receiving an indication of a selection of a particular communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session comprises receiving an indication of selection of the audio-video message communications mode;

facilitating generation, by the instant message sender, of a message according to the selected communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session comprises facilitating generation of an audio-video message by the instant message sender; and

sending the message generated according to the selected communications mode for delivery to the instant message recipient comprises sending the audio-video message for delivery to the instant message recipient.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 33 wherein

facilitating generation of an audio-video message by the instant message sender comprises recording an audio-video message; and

sending the audio-video message for delivery to the instant message recipient comprises sending the recorded audio-video message for delivery to the instant message recipient.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 33 wherein facilitating generation of an audio-video message by the instant message sender comprises accessing a pre-recorded audio-video message; and sending the audio-video message for delivery to the instant message recipient comprises sending the pre-recorded audio-video message for delivery to the instant message recipient.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27 wherein: the different communications modes further include an audio and still picture communications mode that enables the instant message sender to send a message to the instant message recipient that includes an audio message and a still picture; receiving an indication of a selection of a particular communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session comprises receiving an indication of selection of the audio and still picture communications mode; facilitating generation, by the instant message sender, of a message according to the selected communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session comprises facilitating generation of a message including an audio message and a still picture; and sending the message generated according to the selected communications mode for delivery to the instant message recipient comprises sending the message including the audio message and the still picture for delivery to the instant message recipient.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36 wherein: facilitating generation of a message including an audio message and a still picture comprises taking a still photograph; and

sending the message including the audio message and the still picture for delivery to the instant message recipient comprises sending the still photograph for delivery to the instant message recipient.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36 wherein:  
facilitating generation of a message including an audio message and a still picture comprises accessing a previously generated still picture; and  
sending the message including the audio message and the still picture for delivery to the instant message recipient comprises sending the previously generated still picture for delivery to the instant message recipient.

39-47. (Cancelled)

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34 wherein:  
recording an audio-video message comprises recording an audio-video message clip; and  
sending the recorded audio-video message for delivery to the instant message recipient comprises sending the recorded audio-video message clip for delivery to the instant message recipient only after the complete audio-video message clip has been recorded.

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27 further comprising receiving and displaying, to the instant message sender, audio-video messages from the instant message recipient.

50. (Previously presented) A system for regulating self-disclosure in an instant messaging communications sessions, the system comprising:  
means for establishing, between an instant message sender and an instant message recipient, an instant messaging communications session that enables an exchange of textual, audio, and audio-video messages between the instant message sender and the instant message recipient;

means for providing the instant message sender with different communications modes for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session, the different communications modes offering varying levels of self-disclosure and including:

a textual message communications mode that enables the instant message sender to send textual messages to the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session,

an audio message communications mode that enables the instant message sender to send audio messages to the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session, and

an audio-video message communications mode that enables the instant message sender to send audio-video messages to the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session;

means for receiving an indication of a selection, by the instant message sender from among the different communications modes, of a particular communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session;

means for facilitating generation, by the instant message sender, of a message according to the selected communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session; and

means for sending the message generated according to the selected communications mode for delivery to the instant message recipient.

51. (Previously presented) The system of claim 50 further comprising:

means for enabling the instant message sender to change the communications mode selected for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session;

means for receiving an indication of a selection, by the instant message sender from among the different communications modes, of a new communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session;

means for facilitating generation, by the instant message sender, of a message according to the newly selected communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session; and

means for sending the message generated according to the newly selected communications mode for delivery to the instant message recipient.

52. (Previously presented) The system of claim 50 wherein:

the means for receiving an indication of a selection of a particular communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session comprises means for receiving an indication of selection of the textual message communications mode;

the means for facilitating generation, by the instant message sender, of a message according to the selected communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session comprises means for facilitating generation of a textual message by the instant message sender; and

the means for sending the message generated according to the selected communications mode for delivery to the instant message recipient comprises means for sending the textual message for delivery to the instant message recipient.

53. (Previously presented) The system of claim 50 wherein:

the means for receiving an indication of a selection of a particular communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session comprises means for receiving an indication of selection of the audio message communications mode;

the means for facilitating generation, by the instant message sender, of a message according to the selected communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session comprises means for facilitating generation of an audio message by the instant message sender; and



the means for sending the message generated according to the selected communications mode for delivery to the instant message recipient comprises means for sending the audio message for delivery to the instant message recipient.

54. (Previously presented) The system of claim 53 wherein:

the means for facilitating generation of an audio message by the instant message sender comprises means for recording an audio message; and

the means for sending the audio message for delivery to the instant message recipient comprises means for sending the recorded audio message for delivery to the instant message recipient.

55. (Previously presented) The system of claim 53 wherein

the means for facilitating generation of an audio message by the instant message sender comprises means for accessing a pre-recorded audio message; and

the means for sending the audio message for delivery to the instant message recipient comprises means for sending the pre-recorded audio message for delivery to the instant message recipient.

56. (Previously presented) The system of claim 50 wherein:

the means for receiving an indication of a selection of a particular communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session comprises means for receiving an indication of selection of the audio-video message communications mode;

the means for facilitating generation, by the instant message sender, of a message according to the selected communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session comprises means for facilitating generation of an audio-video message by the instant message sender; and

the means for sending the message generated according to the selected communications mode for delivery to the instant message recipient comprises means for sending the audio-video message for delivery to the instant message recipient.

57. (Previously presented) The system of claim 56 wherein:  
the means for facilitating generation of an audio-video message by the instant message sender comprises means for recording an audio-video message; and  
the means for sending the audio-video message for delivery to the instant message recipient comprises means for sending the recorded audio-video message for delivery to the instant message recipient.

58. (Previously presented) The system of claim 57 wherein:  
the means for recording an audio-video message comprises means for recording an audio-video message clip; and  
the means for sending the recorded audio-video message for delivery to the instant message recipient comprises means for sending the recorded audio-video message clip for delivery to the instant message recipient only after the complete audio-video message clip has been recorded.

59. (Previously presented) The system of claim 56 wherein:  
the means for facilitating generation of an audio-video message by the instant message sender comprises means for accessing a pre-recorded audio-video message; and  
the means for sending the audio-video message for delivery to the instant message recipient comprises means for sending the pre-recorded audio-video message for delivery to the instant message recipient.

60. (Previously presented) The system of claim 50 wherein:  
the different communications modes further include an audio and still picture communications mode that enables the instant message sender to send a message to the instant message recipient that includes an audio message and a still picture;  
the means for receiving an indication of a selection of a particular communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging

communications session comprises means for receiving an indication of selection of the audio and still picture communications mode;

the means for facilitating generation, by the instant message sender, of a message according to the selected communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session comprises means for facilitating generation of a message including an audio message and a still picture; and

the means for sending the message generated according to the selected communications mode for delivery to the instant message recipient comprises means for sending the message including the audio message and the still picture for delivery to the instant message recipient.

61. (Previously presented) The system of claim 60 wherein:

the means for facilitating generation of a message including an audio message and a still picture comprises means for taking a still photograph; and

the means for sending the message including the audio message and the still picture for delivery to the instant message recipient comprises means for sending the still photograph for delivery to the instant message recipient.

62. (Previously presented) The system of claim 60 wherein:

the means for facilitating generation of a message including an audio message and a still picture comprises means for accessing a previously generated still picture; and

the means for sending the message including the audio message and the still picture for delivery to the instant message recipient comprises means for sending the previously generated still picture for delivery to the instant message recipient.

63. (Previously presented) The system of claim 50 further comprising means for receiving and displaying, to the instant message sender, audio-video messages from the instant message recipient.

64. (Previously presented) A computer program product embodied on a tangible computer-readable medium, the computer program including instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to:

establish, between an instant message sender and an instant message recipient, an instant messaging communications session that enables an exchange of textual, audio, and audio-video messages between the instant message sender and the instant message recipient;

provide the instant message sender with different communications modes for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session, the different communications modes offering varying levels of self-disclosure and including:

a textual message communications mode that enables the instant message sender to send textual messages to the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session,

an audio message communications mode that enables the instant message sender to send audio messages to the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session, and

an audio-video message communications mode that enables the instant message sender to send audio-video messages to the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session;

receive an indication of a selection, by the instant message sender from among the different communications modes, of a particular communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session;

facilitate generation, by the instant message sender, of a message according to the selected communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session; and

send the message generated according to the selected communications mode for delivery to the instant message recipient.

65. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 64 further comprising instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to:

enable the instant message sender to change the communications mode selected for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session;

receive an indication of a selection, by the instant message sender from among the different communications modes, of a new communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session;

facilitate generation, by the instant message sender, of a message according to the newly selected communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session; and

send the message generated according to the newly selected communications mode for delivery to the instant message recipient.

66. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 64 wherein:  
the instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to receive an indication of a selection of a particular communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session comprise instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to receive an indication of selection of the textual message communications mode;

the instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to facilitate generation, by the instant message sender, of a message according to the selected communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session comprise instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to facilitate generation of a textual message by the instant message sender; and

the instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to send the message generated according to the selected communications mode for delivery to the instant message recipient comprise instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to send the textual message for delivery to the instant message recipient.

67. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 64 wherein:

the instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to receive an indication of a selection of a particular communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session comprise instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to receive an indication of selection of the audio message communications mode;

the instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to facilitate generation, by the instant message sender, of a message according to the selected communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session comprise instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to facilitate generation of an audio message by the instant message sender; and

the instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to send the message generated according to the selected communications mode for delivery to the instant message recipient comprise instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to send the audio message for delivery to the instant message recipient.

68. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 67 wherein:

the instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to facilitate generation of an audio message by the instant message sender comprise instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to record an audio message; and

the instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to send the audio message for delivery to the instant message recipient comprise instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to send the recorded audio message for delivery to the instant message recipient.

69. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 67 wherein:

the instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to facilitate generation of an audio message by the instant message sender comprise instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to access a pre-recorded audio message; and

the instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to send the audio message for delivery to the instant message recipient comprise instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to send the pre-recorded audio message for delivery to the instant message recipient.

70. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 64 wherein:  
the instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to receive an indication of a selection of a particular communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session comprise instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to receive an indication of selection of the audio-video message communications mode;

the instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to facilitate generation, by the instant message sender, of a message according to the selected communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session comprise instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to facilitate generation of an audio-video message by the instant message sender; and

the instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to send the message generated according to the selected communications mode for delivery to the instant message recipient comprise instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to send the audio-video message for delivery to the instant message recipient.

71. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 70 wherein:  
the instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to facilitate generation of an audio-video message by the instant message sender comprise instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to record an audio-video message; and

the instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to send the audio-video message for delivery to the instant message recipient comprise instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to send the recorded audio-video message for delivery to the instant message recipient.

72. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 71 wherein:  
the instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to record an audio-video message comprise instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to record an audio-video message clip; and

the instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to send the recorded audio-video message for delivery to the instant message recipient comprise instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to send the recorded audio-video message clip for delivery to the instant message recipient only after the complete audio-video message clip has been recorded.

73. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 64 further comprising instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to receive and display, to the instant message sender, audio-video messages from the instant message recipient.

74. (New) The computer program product of claim 71 wherein:

the instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to facilitate generation of an audio-video message by the instant message sender comprise instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to access a pre-recorded audio-video message; and

the instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to send the audio-video message for delivery to the instant message recipient comprise instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to send the pre-recorded audio-video message for delivery to the instant message recipient.

75. (New) The computer program product of claim 64 wherein:

the different communications modes further include an audio and still picture communications mode that enables the instant message sender to send a message to the instant message recipient that includes an audio message and a still picture;

the instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to receive an indication of a selection of a particular communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session comprise instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to receive an indication of selection of the audio and still picture communications mode;

the instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to facilitate generation, by the instant message sender, of a message according to the selected communications mode for communicating with the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications



session comprise instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to facilitate generation of a message including an audio message and a still picture; and

the instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to send the message generated according to the selected communications mode for delivery to the instant message recipient comprise instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to send the message including the audio message and the still picture for delivery to the instant message recipient.

76. (New) The computer program product of claim 75 wherein:

the instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to facilitate generation of a message including an audio message and a still picture comprise instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to take a still photograph; and

the instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to send the message including the audio message and the still picture for delivery to the instant message recipient comprise instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to send the still photograph for delivery to the instant message recipient.

77. (New) The computer program product of claim 45 wherein:

the instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to facilitate generation of a message including an audio message and a still picture comprise instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to access a previously generated still picture; and

the instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to send the message including the audio message and the still picture for delivery to the instant message recipient comprise instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to send the previously generated still picture for delivery to the instant message recipient.